

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 09691 220726Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CTME-00 SS-15 NSC-05
FMC-02 DOTE-00 /089 W
-----122993 220732Z /10

R 220631Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1379

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 9691

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, MY
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF FREE PORT STATUS FOR PENANG

REF: KUALA LUMPUR A-81

1. GOM ANNOUNCED THAT EFFECTIVE MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 19, 1977 AND BY VIRTUE OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (PENANG ORDER, 1977, THE ISLAND STATE OF PENANG CEASED TO BE A FREE PORT. HENCEFORTH, CUSTOMS DUTIES WOULD BE LEVIED ON ALL IMPORTS INTO AND EXPORTS OUT OF THE ISLAND.

2. THIS FOLLOWS THE STATE'S INCLUSION IN THE MALAYSIAN PRINCIPAL CUSTOMS AREA WHICH COMPRISES PENANG, PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, SABAH AND SARAWAK, AND REPRESENTS THE FINAL STAGE IN THE UNIFIED CUSTOMS SYSTEM INTRODUCED AND IMPLEMENTED FOR THE WHOLE OF MALAYSIA ON JULY 1, 1977 (SEE REFAIR).

3. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MEANS THERE WILL BE FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS BETWEEN PENANG AND THE MAINLAND, WITH NO CUSTOMS DUTIES LEVIED. PRIOR TO THIS, ALL GOODS WERE SUBJECTED TO GOM CHECKPOINTS BEFORE ENTRY INTO THE MAINLAND.

4. APPREHENSION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY,
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ESPECIALLY CAMERA, RADIO AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SECTOR, ON ITS POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS. GOM PROPOSES TO SET UP DUTY FREE SHOPS ON THE ISLAND AND KUALA LUMPUR TO PROMOTE TOURISM AS A COMPENSATORY MEASURE.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, MY
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